

## Calendar No. 457

104TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
104-290

### CONVEYANCE OF A FISH AND WILDLIFE FACILITY TO THE STATE OF WYOMING

JUNE 25, 1996.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public  
Works, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 1802]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which was referred the bill (S. 1802), a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain property containing a fish and wildlife facility to the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

The purpose of this bill is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain property, known as “Ranch A” and containing a fish and wildlife facility, to the State of Wyoming.

#### BACKGROUND

The Ranch A property is located in Crook County, Wyoming, and consists of approximately 680 acres of land. The Ranch A lodge, an historic building, was constructed in the 1930s and acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1963. The Fish and Wildlife Service conducted trout research operations at the facility until 1980. Since that time, the Service has maintained the facility, but has leased the area to a variety of groups including the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the South Dakota School of Mines.

While owned and maintained by the Department of the Interior, the Ranch A property is not currently used by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Fish and Wildlife Service intends to divest itself of the Ranch A property and is likely to designate it as surplus. Because of its historical significance, the State of Wyoming would like to assume responsibility for Ranch A.

S. 1802 directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Ranch A property to the State of Wyoming. If the State does not use the land for historical, educational or wildlife management purposes, it will revert to Federal ownership.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

##### *Section 1. Conveyance of certain property to Wyoming*

Section 1(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Wyoming, without reimbursement, all right, title, and interest of the United States in the Ranch A property within 180 days after the date of enactment of this legislation.

Section 1(b) describes the Ranch A property as being located in Crook County, Wyoming, and consisting of approximately 680 acres of land. The property includes all real property, buildings, and all other improvements to real property. The property also consists of all personal property including art, historic light fixtures, wildlife mounts, draperies, rugs, and furniture directly related to the site at the time of transfer.

Section 1(c) provides that the conveyed property shall be used by the State of Wyoming for fish and wildlife management or educational purposes (or both) or, consistent with applicable Federal and State laws, for maintaining and using through State and/or local agreements, the historical interests and significance of facilities on the property. This section also directs the State of Wyoming to provide access to the property to institutions of higher education. If the property is not used for the above purposes, all right, title, and interest in and to the property shall revert to the United States.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

S. 1802 was introduced on May 23, 1996 by Senators Thomas and Simpson and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. The committee held no hearings on S. 1802. The committee met on June 18, 1996 and June 20, 1996, to consider the bill. On June 20, 1996, the committee reported the bill by voice vote. There are no agency reports.

#### EVALUATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT

Section 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires publication in the report the committee's estimate of the regulatory impact made by the bill as reported. No regulatory impact is expected by the passage of this bill.

The bill will not affect the personal privacy of individuals.

#### UNFUNDED MANDATES

Public Law 104-4 requires the committee to publish in its report any unfunded mandates upon private citizens. The passage of this legislation will cause no unfunded mandates.

#### COST OF LEGISLATION

Section 403 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Act requires that a statement of the cost of a reported bill, prepared

by the Congressional Budget Office, be included in the report. That statement follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
*Washington, DC, June 25, 1996.*

Hon. JOHN H. CHAFEE,  
*Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works,*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 1802, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain property containing a fish and wildlife facility to the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on June 20, 1996.

S. 1802 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey about 60 acres of land and related property located in Wyoming to the State, without reimbursement. We expect that implementing this bill would have no significant impact on the Federal budget. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply to the bill.

S. 1802 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in Public Law 104-4 and would impose no direct costs on State, local, or tribal governments.

CBO expects that the State of Wyoming would voluntarily accept title to the property and would seek to enter into a partnership with a private foundation to restore buildings on the site. We estimate that the cost of this project to the State and/or foundation would be about \$2 million.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Deborah Reis (for Federal costs) and Marjorie Miller (for the State and local impact).

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL, *Director.*

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

Section 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires the committee to publish changes in existing law made by the bill as reported. Passage of this bill will make no changes to existing law.